

Henkel's Leaf-tailed Gecko

Scientific Name: *Uroplatus henkeli*

Class: Reptilia

Order: Squamata

Family: Gekkonidae



The Henkel's leaf-tailed gecko is also known as Henkel's flat-tailed gecko or the frilled leaf-tailed gecko. They are native to Madagascar. They are the largest of this genus with a total length of 250 to 330 millimeters (10 to 13 inches). They have a triangular shaped head with a snout of 120 to 160 mm (4.8 to 5.6 in). The gecko's tail, feet, and hands consists of specialized plates each bearing numerous microscopic hook-like cells that allow them to cling to smooth surfaces. Their tail is in a shape of a leaf. They are olive green or brown with dark spots, blotches, of flecks, with the underside a whitish color. The eyes are beige or pinkish brown with red spots which gives the overall appearance of a brick red eye color.

Range

The Henkel's Leaf-tailed Gecko primary home is on the island of Nosy Be' near Madagascar, as well as on the mainland of Madagascar, in the region of Ankarana.

Habitat

Their habitat is usually in the trees of a deciduous forest although they have been found in low altitude rainforest. They spend most of their day head downward on small trees.

Gestation

It takes about 90 days for the eggs to hatch.

Litter

The female will bury 2 eggs at a time on the forest floor.

Behavior

Henkel's Leaf-tailed Gecko is nocturnal, found waiting perched head-down on a tree to ambush prey. During the day, they hide in the shelter of tree hollows or epiphytic ferns. To startle predators, they will gape with an open mouth, let out a screeching distress call which helps it escape. The leaf-like tail can be removed and will regrow.

Reproduction

The female gecko has two eggs that are buried in the forest floor. The young are pretty much left of their own after hatching.

Wild Diet

Henkel's Leaf-tailed geckos are insectivores (spiders and cockroaches are on their diet) but have been known to eat snails if found.